**Expansion of profile for women in Armed Forces**

914. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the profile for women in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) whether the Ministry has also called for a study on the possibility of giving women officers permanent commission; and

(d) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) In the armed forces, women officers are inducted in Medical, Nursing and Dental Services both in Permanent Commission (PC) as well as Short Service Commission (SSC), Induction of women in other cadres of the Armed Forces commenced in 1992 as Short Service Commission Officers (SSC) with initial tenure of five years extendable by 5 years. Presently, the tenure of all women SSC officers in the three Services is 10 years of service initially, extendable by 4 more years.

In Army, Women officers in SSC are inducted in the Army Air Defence, Corps of Signals, Corps of Engineers, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Intelligence Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General's Department, in the Air Force in the Flying (Transport & Helicopter), Technical, Administration, Logistics, Accounts, Education and Meteorology Branches and in the Navy in Logistics, Education, Law, Air Traffic Controller cadres.

A study on all aspects related to women officers in Armed Forces including permanent commission was undertaken by the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The study report has been submitted to the Government.

**Modernisation of IAF**

915. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF is going to modernize its combat aircrafts with an investment of Rs. 20,000 crore;